



Michael T. Scuse
Secretary of Agriculture

JFC BUDGET PRESENTATION

FISCAL YEAR 2023



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



PROMOTING GROWTH, PROTECTING CONSUMERS



AGRICULTURE

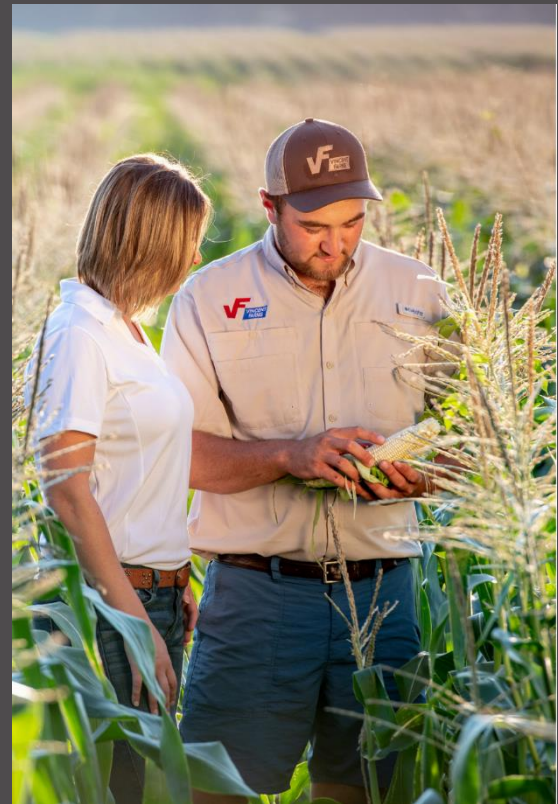
DELAWARE'S #1 INDUSTRY

FAMILY FARMS

On 525,000 acres of farmland, Delaware's 2,300 family farms produce a wide variety of agricultural products. These include corn, soybeans, wheat, poultry, fruits, and vegetables.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Agriculture provides more than 20,000 jobs and \$8 billion in economic activity to the state, including \$1.5 billion in direct sales.



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OPERATING BUDGET

\$8.82
Million
Recommended
Budget

- Delaware Department of Agriculture supports farmers and consumers alike, working to sustain and grow our industry, promote fresh and seasonal products, and build consumer trust in Delaware.
- 186 dedicated staff in 13 sections strive to effectively and efficiently protect and enhance the environment, health, and welfare of the general public.



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Delaware Department of Agriculture Sections		
Aglands Preservation & Planning	Standardbred Breeders' Fund	Plant Industries
Agricultural Compliance	Food Products Inspection	Poultry & Animal Health
Communications & Marketing	Nutrient Management	Thoroughbred Racing Commission
Delaware Forest Service	Pesticides	Weights & Measures
Harness Racing Commission		



In an independent peer-reviewed survey, Delaware's Nutrient Management Program was the:

ONLY program in the region that received a positive impression from

FARMERS



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

REQUEST: \$56.9

BACKGROUND

The EPA grant-funded position which inspects farms for Nutrient Management regulatory compliance will end in June 2022; however, DDA must still satisfy EPA guidance for reporting compliance of regulated farms.

FUNDS REQUESTED WILL...

Provide an increase in General Fund Personnel of \$56,900 (75% of year one salary) for an Environmental Scientist III position to perform regulatory inspections and audits of nutrient management and animal waste management plans.



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FOOD PRODUCTS INSPECTION

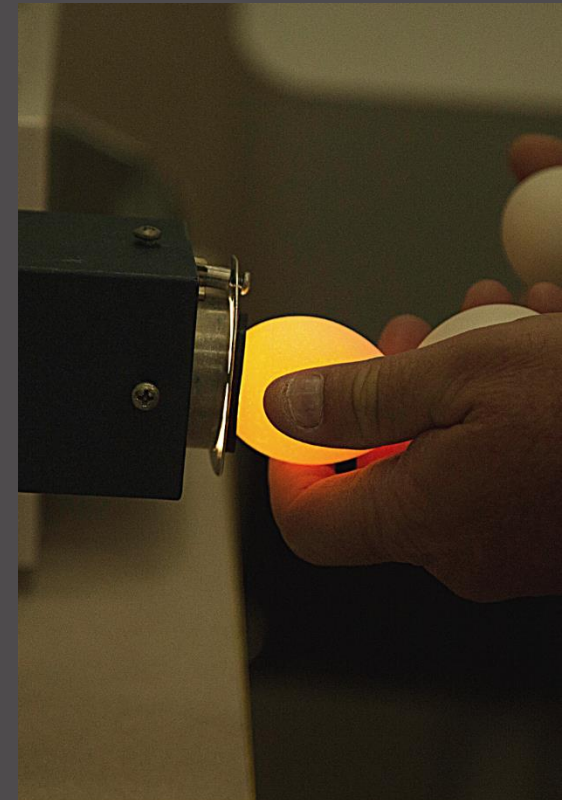
REQUEST: \$13.6

BACKGROUND

There is a need for a new Ag Commodity Inspector position, funded 30/70 percent with General Fund/ASF funds.

FUNDS REQUESTED WILL...

Create a new position to provide poultry and egg graders relief, conduct statewide fruit and vegetable inspections and retail egg inspections, due to an increase in demand across all segments. This position will require licenses for all products.



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EFFICIENCY AND PROGRAM FUNDING

REQUEST: \$41.1

BACKGROUND

Multiple sections within the agency submitted requests demonstrating need or continual underfunding of programs to successfully carry out our mission. A portion of the 1% General Fund contingency increase is allocated to cover these expenses.

THESE FUNDS WILL...

Fund our poultry health and stray livestock programs and increase our efficiency through IT investments.



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MINOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

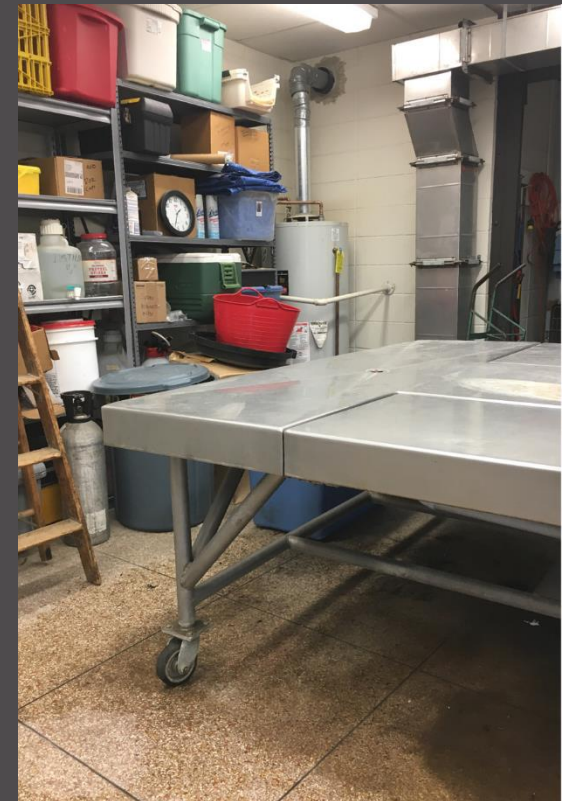
REQUEST: \$500.0

BACKGROUND

Previously, the Department requested funding for minor capital improvements each year outlining the projects that needed to be funded. FY21 was the first year that we used this line as a single request, and it has been successful.

THESE FUNDS WILL...

Allow us to continue renovations within our main building, laboratories, state forests, and replace equipment at the end of its useful life.



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

HOW IT WORKS

Two step process:

1. Landowners voluntarily enroll their farm into a **10-year Preservation District agreement**.
2. And then, landowners can apply to sell their farm's development rights, known as a **preservation easement**, keeping the farm preserved for perpetuity.



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS

Delaware has permanent preservation easements on:

- More than 1,100 farms, totaling 143,000 acres
- Approx. 27 percent of Delaware farmland

County-Level Data:

- Kent County: 528 easements on 72,600 acres
 - 39 percent of county farmland
- New Castle County: 105 easements on 14,650 acres
 - 21 percent of county farmland
- Sussex County: 471 easements on 54,700 acres
 - 20 percent of county farmland



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Total Easement Costs:	\$252.0 million
State funds:	\$172.0 million
Federal funds:	\$ 62.0 million
County funds:	\$ 15.0 million
Other funding:	\$ 3.0 million
Total Landowner Discount:	\$358.0 million



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

UPCOMING ROUND 26

Farms requesting appraisals for **Round 26** easement selection, using FY22 funding, expected to be announced in the spring:

- Kent County: 65 farms on 5,643 acres
- New Castle County: 12 farms on 689 acres
- Sussex County: 108 farms on 10,128 acres
- Total: 185 farms on 16,460 acres

The program accepted the following district applications in 2021:

- Kent County: 16 farms on 1,564 acres
- New Castle County: 2 farms on 122 acres
- Sussex County: 35 farms on 2,263 acres
- Total: 53 farms on 3,949 acres



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

YOUNG FARMER LOAN PROGRAM

- Helps young farmers purchase farmland, one of the obstacles to getting starting in farming.
- 30 year, no-interest loan
- 37 young farmers have received nearly \$8.42 M in loans
- Farms are placed in permanent preservation easement
- 2,969 acres of land permanently preserved through Young Farmer Loan Program



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

FUNDING PARTNERS

American Farmland Trust ranked Delaware's Aglands Preservation Program the 2nd most effective farmland preservation program in the country.

Our funding partners help leverage additional funds to purchase easements. Preserving farmland would not be possible without:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New Castle County Council, Kent County Levy Court, and Sussex County Council
- United States Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)

Full funding of Delaware Aglands Preservation for FY23 at \$20.0M would ensure that DDA is able to match any potential funding sources from our partners.



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COVER CROP INVESTMENT

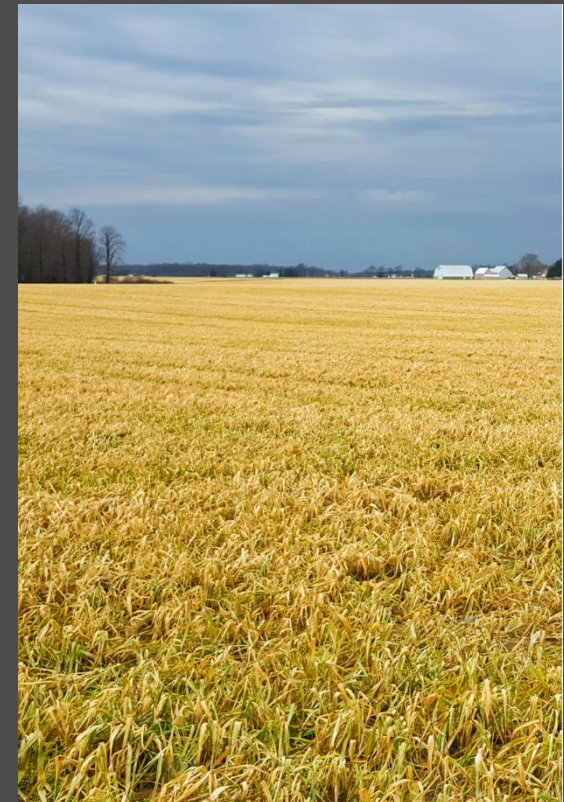
\$3,190.0 BOND BILL REQUEST

BACKGROUND

Research shows that cover crops are the best tool in Delaware – environmentally and economically – to reduce agricultural nutrient runoff, improve water quality, and mitigate climate change. This management tool improves soil health, increases the resiliency of fields to pests, and reduces fertilizers and pesticides use.

THESE FUNDS WILL...

Offset the costs for farmers to plant cover crops. These crops are not harvested; therefore, they do not provide any income for the farmer, but they help Delaware reach its nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay.



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